

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 13056 230834Z

17

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIE-00 EUR-12

ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 EB-07 STR-04 COME-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01

LAB-04 /123 W

----- 083867

O P 230800Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4235

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, UNESCO, ETRD

SUBJECT: UNESCO 19TH GC AGENDA ITEM 29 - DRAFT PROTOCOL TO
FLORENCE AGREEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 285575, (B) NAIROBI 12939, (C) STATE 283844

1. IN A POORLY ATTENDED NIGHT SESSION OF COMMISSION II
IN WHICH THE FLORENCE AGREEMENT PROTOCOL WAS TAKEN UP, THE
EC ACCESSION AMENDMENT WAS ATTACKED BY THE USSR AND
EAST EUROPEAN DELS, WITH SOME AFRICAN DELS ALSO OPPOSING.
THE USSR ASKED WHY A SPECIAL AMENDMENT IS NEEDED FOR THE
EC AS OPPOSED TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY OR THE
OAS. THE IKRANIAN DEL SAID THE EC COMPETENCE PROBLEM
WAS AN INTERNAL PROBLEM WHICH SHOULD BE HANDLED
WITHIN THE EC AND NOT IN UNESCO. NIGER AND NIGERIA ALSO
QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR A SPECIAL EC PARAGRAPH IN THE
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PAGE 02 NAIROB 13056 230834Z

PROTOCOL. THE EC DEL (AUBREE) EXPLAINED THE AMENDMENT

AND ITS IMPORTANCE, NOTING THAT THE EC IS THE ENTITY WITH COMPETENCE ON CUSTOMS MATTERS RELATING TO THE MEMBER STATES, AND STRESSING THAT WITHOUT EC ACCESSION THE EC MEMBER STATES COULD NOT UNDERTAKE ANY FURTHER LIBERALIZATION OF THE FLORENCE AGREEMENT. THE USSR DEL ARGUED THAT A VOTE ON THIS QUESTION WOULD VIOLATE THE CONFERENCE RULES OF PROCEDURE.

2. IN A VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT, THE COUNT WAS 17 FOR (U.S.), 17 AGAINST, AND 16 ABSTAINING. (IRONICALLY, THE IRISH DEL ABSTAINED IN ORDER TO AVOID A SOVIET HARANGUE ON THE PROPRIETY OF A NON-SIGNATORY OF THE FLORENCE AGREEMENT VOTING ON THIS QUESTION.) A REPEAT VOTE COULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN IMMEDIATELY, BUT, IN LIGHT OF THE MOOD OF THOSE PRESENT, WAS PUT OFF FOR 48 HOURS (I.E., WEDNESDAY NIGHT OR THURSDAY). COMMENT: THE EC AND THE MEMBER STATES PLAN TO SPEND THE INTERIM PERIOD EDUCATING DELS ON THE PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE EC'S ACCESSION. SOME DOUBT REMAINS, HOWEVER, AS TO THE CHANCES OF MUSTERING THE REQUIRED TWO-THIRDS SUPPORT. END COMMENT.

3. IN THE ONLY OTHER VOTE TAKEN ON THE FLORENCE AGREEMENT PROTOCOL AMENDMENTS, THE U.S. AMENDMENT ON THE OTHER PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED (PART II, PARAGRAPH 3 F) WAS APPROVED BY VOTE OF 37 FOR, NONE AGAINST, WITH 12 ABSTAINING (EC).

DECON 11/23/77.
MARSHALL

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